flowers particularly roses have, become sick. The Government of India is aware of their problems and has, therefore, initiated measures for their rehabilitation and to meet international competition. The measures include working out a financial package for sick units, setting up of flower marketing centres in Europe, auction Centres at Bangalore, Mumbai and Noida; cold storage and cargo handling facilities at Mumbai, New Delhi, Bangalore, Trivendrum, Chennai and Hyderabad Airports. Also walk-in-type cold storage facilities have been set up at Guwahati, Agartala and Kolkata.

Funds for Watershed Development Fund in A.P.

630. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked for Andhra Pradesh during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 under the Watershed Development Fund;

(b) the districts of Andhra Pradesh covered by this scheme;

(c) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has approached the Union Government for more funds to cover more districts;

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto; and

(e) the achievements of Andhra Pradesh Government in implementation of watershed programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Presently an amount of Rs. 20 crores has been earmarked for Andhra Pradesh during the year 2000-2001 by the Central Steering Committee of Watershed Development Fund and no amount for the year 2001-2002. This amount will be utilized over a period of 4-5 years.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has selected the following districts;

(i) Chittoor (ii) Medak (iii) Warangal (iv) Rangareddy (v) Srikakulam and (vi) Karimnagar

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Programmes and activities undertaken with the Watershed

Development Fund include sanctioning of 10 capacity building phase projects covering and area of 835 ha. and involving Rs. 46.61 lakhs in selected 5 districts of Andhra Pradesh. The covered districts are (i) Karimnagar (ii) Chittoor (iii) Medak (iv) Warangal and (v) Srikakulam. Funds will be released on completion of initial activities such as Shramdan for four days by the Watershed Community. These projects will cover an area of 12,200 ha. during the full implementation phase.

Drought related deaths in Rajasthan

631. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will be Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the drought related deaths in the drought affected areas in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the study, if any, made by Centre in this regard;

(c) what is the quantity of foodgrains provided by the Centre for drought affected areas in Rajasthan as against the demand made by the State Government;

(d) what are the reasons for short supply of foodgrains, if any; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to meet the requirement of foodgrains in drought affected areas in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No report on deaths due to drought has been received from the Government of Rajasthan.

(c) to (e) Taking into account the requirement and norms, 5.68 lakh MTs. of wheat have been allocated free of cost to Rajasthan under Food for Work Programme. The validity of lifting has been extended upto 30th September, 2001. In addition, 2.53 lakh MTs. of wheat at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates have been allocated. Also, additional 1.24 lakh Mts. of wheat at BPL rates have been allocated to the State for distribution to the drought affected families (both BPL and Above Poverty Line) @ 7 20 Kg. per family per month for a period of three months.

Bank guarantee to NAFED for procuring Chillies

632. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: